

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR NOVOTNY AND SAYLOR - FAS, AGRICULTURE DELEGATION

FOL RPT BERLIN 03048 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN SOFIA 2 MAY 78 QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 03048

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR ASST. SECRETARY

HATHAWAY; HUGHES, FAS; AND NOVOTNY, FAS/G AND F

BONN FOR AGATTACHE

SOFIA FOR KELLY HARRISON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GE

SUBJ: GRAIN CONSULTATIONS AND BEIL VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 99182, (B) STATE 110436, (C) BERLIN 2551,
(D) BERLIN 2593

1. SUMMARY: SCHMIED OF MIN. FOREIGN TRADE SAID JUNE
CONSULTATIONS ON GRAIN IN WASHINGTON TOO SOON TO
SCHEDULE. EARLIEST DATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER.
SCHMIED ALSO PROPOSES THAT STATE SECRETARY BEIL
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INFORMALLY DISCUSS SUBJECT OF GRAIN WITH HIGH-LEVEL
USDA OFFICIAL ON MAY 10. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REF. A, AGATT REQUESTED MEETING
WITH DR. FRITZ SCHMIED OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.
MEETING TOOK PLACE MAY 2 WITH SCHMIED, GUENTER FRIEDRICH
AND DIETER PEH, ALL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.

3. REMINDING THOSE PRESENT THAT MANFRED WOLF, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NAHRUNG, HAD INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED TO VISIT USDA IN JUNE 1978 FOR US-GDR GRAIN CONSULTATIONS, AGATT ASKED FOR SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR DATES OF MEETING. HE ADDED THAT THE PERIOD JUNE 14-23 WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE BECAUSE OF KEY ABSENCES FROM WASHINGTON BUT THAT PERIOD IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER THESE DATES WOULD BE.

4. SCHMIED REPLIED THAT HE WAS A BIT SURPRISED BY THIS SINCE HE HAD ASSUMED THAT VISITING AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT GROUP WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AS WELL AS OTHERS. AGATT EXPLAINED THAT, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ADVISED SCHMIED, THE ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF THE VISITING TEAM WOULD BE TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE U.S. IN A 5-YEAR FRAMEWORK. THERE WOULD BE NO TIME TO BACKTRACK AND MAKE POSSIBLE GRAIN CONSULTATIONS IN THIS FRAMEWORK. SCHMIED RECOGNIZED THIS.

5. AGATT PRESSED FOR A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AND SCHMIED REPLIED THAT THERE WERE TWO POSSIBILITIES. THE FIRST OF THESE WOULD BE FOR STATE SECRETARY OF MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE BEIL TO INFORMALLY DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF GRAIN WITH AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL FROM USDA, PREFERABLY THE SECRETARY. HE SPECIFICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTIONED THAT BEIL WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN "TECHNICAL LEVEL" DISCUSSIONS. SCHMIED'S SECOND PROPOSAL WAS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AT THIS TIME FOR A GDR DELEGATION TO HOLD GRAIN CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON DURING OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. SCHMIED RULED OUT EARLIER CONSULTATIONS BY SUGGESTING THAT THERE IS TOO LITTLE TIME TO ARRANGE FOR A VISIT IN JUNE, THAT JULY AND AUGUST ARE VACATION MONTHS IN GDR AND THAT SEPTEMBER IS LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE FALL LEIPZIG FAIR. WHEN QUERIED BY AGATT, SCHMIED REPLIED THAT THESE TWO PROPOSALS WERE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE AND THAT BOTH INFORMAL TALKS WITH BEIL AND REGULAR GRAIN CONSULTATIONS IN EARLY OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER COULD BE HELD.

6. SCHMIED CALLED BACK ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 2 TO CONFIRM THAT THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PROPERLY CLEARED WITH WOLF OF NAHRUNG AND WIEGELMANN OF AGRICULTURE. HE REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. REPLY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BY FRIDAY, MAY 5. HE ALSO REQUESTED THAT IF MEETINGS IN AGRICULTURE WERE NOT "DEFINITE" TO CANCEL THEM.

7. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE OUTLOOK FOR GDR GRAIN PURCHASES

DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, SCHMIED REPLIED THAT EXPERTS WERE IN NAHRUNG AND IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THAT HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER PURCHASES WOULD BE ABOVE OR BELOW ANY PRECISE FIGURE.

8. SCHMIED MADE CLEAR THAT BEIL WAS VERY INTERESTED IN HOLDING THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AT AGRICULTURE WHICH HE HAD BEEN DENIED A YEAR AGO (AGATT REITERATED THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, ETC., WHICH LEAD TO THE INABILITY TO ARRANGE REQUESTED MEETINGS).

9. COMMENT: IN VIEW IMPORTANCE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS OF 200-300 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH HAVE REPRESENTED OVER 80 PERCENT U.S. TOTAL EXPORTS TO GDR IN RECENT YEARS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN VIEW OF KEY ROLE OF STATE SECRETARY BEIL IN TRADE DECISION MAKING, AND IN VIEW OF BEIL'S DISAPPOINTMENT YEAR AGO OVER INABILITY ARRANGE HIGH LEVEL MEETING IN

AGRICULTURE, RECOMMEND URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ARRANGING MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY. THIS WOULD BE IMPORTANT STEP IN STRENGTHENING IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL TIES AND WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SET OCTOBER DATE FOR GRAIN CONSULTATIONS, ALTHOUGH GRAIN WOULD PRESUMABLY REPRESENT ONLY PART OF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURE. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED COORDINATE WITH AGRICULTURE AND ADVISE BY MAY 5 AND EMBASSY WILL COMMUNICATE GDR REPLY SOONEST (NOTE: REF. B RE SECRETARY AGRICULTURE AND UNDER SECRETARY'S ABSENCE IN MOSCOW RECEIVED AFTER MEETING). END COMMENT. BOLEN
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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